

**Washington, DC** - The Department of Energy announced today that Range Fuels, Inc., has been awarded a \$76 million grant from the Department of Energy to fund the research and construction needs of a recently announced ethanol plant in Georgia.

"It's one thing to talk about building ethanol plants and researching new energy technology, but it's another thing to put your own money down," Barrow said. "I applaud Energy Secretary Bodman for betting on a winner. Pine chips and wood waste are both abundant ethanol producing resources here in our state, and this grant is a sign of enormous untapped potential for our rural communities."

The plant will be located in Soperton (Treutlen County), which is represented in Congress by 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah). Earlier this month, [Barrow met with Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman](#) and urged him to invest in the Georgia plant. As the only member of the House to sit on both the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Agriculture Committee, Barrow has made the development of renewable, bio-energy one of his top priorities.

After the news of the \$76 million grant was officially announced earlier today, Barrow met with the CEO of Range Fuels, Mitch Mandich, to discuss the Treutlen County plant, as well as other ways that Congress can better position Georgia as a leader in ethanol production.

"Mitch is committed to helping build an ethanol base here in Georgia," Barrow said. "He realizes the potential for growth and is excited about the opportunities ahead. I've promised to work with them any way I can to help make it happen."

Once completed, the plant in Soperton will produce about 40 million gallons of ethanol per year, and 9 million gallons per year of methanol. The plant will use 1,200 tons per day of wood crops as the primary resource ingredient in ethanol production.

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